

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims

1. (Currently amended) A method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array comprising the steps of:
providing a microprojection array comprised of one or more microprojections having hydrophobic surfaces;
treating the surface of one or more of said microprojections of said microprojection array ~~with a method comprising~~ by rinsing with a solution containing an amphiphilic wetting agent, said wetting agent including a hydrophilic group and a hydrophobic group, wherein the hydrophobic group of the wetting agent binds to hydrophobic surfaces of said one or more microprojections;
providing a coating formulation comprising an active agent;
applying said coating formulation to said treated hydrophobic surfaces of said one or more microprojections; and
drying said coating formulation onto said surfaces to form a coating.
2. (Original) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 1 wherein said coating formulation contains a pharmacologically effective dose of said agent.
3. – 7. (Canceled)
8. (Previously presented) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 1 wherein said wetting agent comprises a surfactant.

9. (Currently amended) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 8 wherein said surfactant ~~comprises a surfactant~~ is selected from the group consisting of sodium dodecyl sulfate, cetyl pyridinium chloride, a trimethylammonium chloride (TMAC) surfactant, benzalkonium chloride, a polysorbitan surfactant, sorbitans, and a laureth surfactant.
10. (Original) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 1 wherein said wetting agent is present in a concentration at or above the critical micelle concentration.
11. (Currently amended) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 1 wherein said wetting agent ~~comprises a wetting agent~~ is selected from the group consisting of HEC, HPC, HPMC, MC, HEMC, EHEC and a block copolymer ethylene oxide and propylene oxide surfactant.
12. (Currently amended) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 1 wherein said wetting agent ~~comprises a wetting agent~~ is selected from the group consisting of proteins and peptides.
13. (Previously presented) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 9 wherein said polysorbitan surfactant is selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate and polyoxyethylene sorbitan monooleate.
14. (Previously presented) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 1 wherein said coating formulation has a contact angle of less than about 100 degrees.
15. (Currently amended) A method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array comprising the steps of:

providing a microprojection array comprised of one or more microprojections having hydrophobic surfaces;

providing a coating formulation comprising a solution containing an active agent and an amphiphilic wetting agent, said wetting agent including a hydrophilic group and a hydrophobic group, wherein the hydrophobic group of the wetting agent binds to hydrophobic surfaces of said one or more microprojections;

applying said coating formulation to said treated hydrophobic surfaces of said one or more microprojections; and

drying said coating formulation onto said surfaces to form a coating.

16. (Original) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 15 wherein said coating formulation contains a pharmacologically effective dose of said agent.

17. (Currently amended) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 15 wherein said wetting agent comprises a surfactant.

18. (Currently amended) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 17 wherein said surfactant ~~comprises a surfactant~~ is selected from the group consisting of sodium dodecyl sulfate, cetyl pyridinium chloride, a trimethylammonium chloride (TMAC) surfactant, benzalkonium chloride, a polysorbitan surfactant, sorbitans, and a laureth surfactant.

19. (Previously presented) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 15 wherein said wetting agent is present in a concentration at or above its critical micelle concentration.

20. (Currently amended) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 15 wherein said wetting agent ~~comprises a wetting agent~~

is selected from the group consisting of HEC, HPC, HPMC, MC, HEMC, EHEC and a block copolymer ethylene oxide and propylene oxide surfactant.

21. (Currently amended) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 15 wherein said wetting agent ~~comprises a wetting agent~~ is selected from the group consisting of proteins and peptides.

22. (Previously presented) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 18 wherein said polysorbitan surfactant is selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate and polyoxyethylene sorbitan monooleate.

23. (Previously presented) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 15 wherein said coating formulation has a contact angle of less than about 100 degrees.

24. (Currently amended) A method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array comprising the steps of:
providing a microprojection array comprised of one or more microprojections;
treating the surface of one or more of said microprojections of said microprojection array with a method selected from the group consisting of chemical pre-etching, plasma treatment, heat treating, and rinsing with an alkaline detergent;
providing a coating formulation comprising an active agent;
applying said coating formulation to said treated surfaces of said one or more microprojections; and
drying said coating formulation onto said surfaces to form a coating.

25. (Previously presented) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 24 wherein said step of treating comprises chemical pre-etching.

26. (Previously presented) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 24 wherein said step of treating comprises plasma treatment.

27. (Previously presented) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 24 wherein said step of treating comprises heat treating.

28. (Previously presented) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 24 wherein said step of treating comprises rinsing at least one surface of one or more microprojections with an alkaline detergent.